

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03349 091229Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-20 /080 W  
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R 091143Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7749

UNCLAS TEHRAN 3349

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR PK IR  
SUBJ: BHUTTO VERDICT COMMENTARY

1. COMMENTARY ON BHUTTO APPEAL TO PAKISTAN SUPREME COURT BY  
LOCAL TEHRAN JOURNAL HAS DRAWN RESPONSE FROM PAKISTAN EMB  
HERE. JOURNAL ON APRIL 3 PUBLISHED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE STATING  
THAT DATE OF APPEAL HEARING "WAS SET DESPITE OBJECTION FROM  
BHUTTO'S CHIEF DEFENSE ATTORNEY WHO SAID THAT THE APPEAL  
SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ITS NORMAL LENGTH OF TIME--TWO YEARS.  
THE COURT WAS CURRENTLY HEARING APPEALS FILED IN 1975".

2. FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PAK EMB INFO MIN M Y SETHI WAS PUB-  
LISHED BY JOURNAL IN APRIL 9 "FOCUS" POLITICAL NEWS COLUMN:  
"SIR, IT IS WITH REFERENCE TO A NEWS  
PUBLISHED IN YOUR ESTEEMED PAPER APRIL 3 ABOUT HEARING OF  
APPEAL FILED IN THE SUPREME COURT BY ZULFIQAR ALI BHUTTO AND  
FOUR OTHERS. THE NEWS GIVES AN IMPRESSION THAT THE SUPREME  
COURT DID NOT ALLOW ENOUGH TIME TO DEFENSE COUNSEL AS  
DESIRED BY HIM. IN THIS RESPECT, TO SET THE RECORD  
D  
STRAIGHT IT MAY BE STATE THAT THE COURT PERMITTED  
MAXIMUM ADMISSIBLE FACILITIES TO THE DEFENSE COUNSEL.  
THE SUPREME COURT WHICH TOOK UP MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS  
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CONNECTED WITH THE APPEALS, DIRECTED THE COUNSEL FOR  
STATE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIFTING OF ALL THE  
CONVICTS TO RAWALPINDI ON 4TH OR 5TH NEXT MONTH SO THAT  
THEY WERE AVAILABLE TO THEIR COUNSELS FOR CONSULTATION.  
THE COUNSEL WAS TOLD THAT IF THERE WERE ANY INSUPERABLE  
DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR SHIFTING, THE MATTER SHOULD BE  
BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF THE COURT. HE WAS ALSO ASKED TO

MAKE AVAILABLE COPIES OF THE ENTIRE RECORD OF THE CASE TO DEFENSE COUNSELS BY APRIL 4. THE COUNSEL FOR BHUTTO ALLOWED BY THE COURT FOR APPEAL AFTER THE ENTIRE RECORD WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM. THE COURT ALSO ORDERED THAT REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY BE GRANTED TO COUNSEL TO MEET BHUTTO INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY TO SEEK HIS INSTRUCTIONS. THE COURT OBSERVED THAT IF THERE BE ANY GRIEVANCE ON THAT ACCOUNT, THE COUNSELS COULD APPROACH THE COURT AGAIN. THE SENIOR COUNSEL FOR STATE, ON AN APPEAL FROM THE DEFENSE COUNSEL THAT BHUTTO BE SHIFTED TO THE CELL, WHICH HE HAD EARLIER OCCUPIED BEFORE AWARD OF JUDGMENT, TOLD THE COURT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY GIVEN 'B' CLASS FACILITIES TO HIM AND IF ANYTHING WAS LACKING, GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE IF IT WAS PERMITTED UNDER LAW".

3. COMMENT: PAK EMB SOURCE COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT ARTICLE WAS "STRICTLY OFF THE CUFF" ON THE PART OF SETHI AND WAS NOT PROMPTED BY INSTRUCTIONS FROM ISLAMABAD. MERELY A MATTER OF SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT IN RESPONSE TO THE JOURNAL'S ORIGINAL STORY.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PEPR, PK, IR, (BHUTTO, ALI)  
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